

# The Vinton Chronicles

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Principal James E. Palmer



## Contents

Principal's News	1
No TV Week	1
Nutrition Mileage Club	2
Trestle Tree lands at Vinton	2
K Weather Watchers	3
Winter Weather Wonders	3
Colt Rhyme Festival	3
Celebrating Dr. Seuss	4
Toy Drive for Japan	4
Mileage Club Returns!	4

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ PTA Book Fair  
April 11 - 15
- ◆ School Vacation  
April 18 - 22
- ◆ Kindergarten  
Parent  
Orientation  
Evening May 5<sup>th</sup>

## A Message from the Principal

The signs of a wonderful Vinton School spring are in place. Two days of Kindergarten Registration appointments were held this week, the PTA has scheduled our annual Book Fair and No TV Week activities, we've "Read Across America" and back again, and I finally can see out my office window without digging a porthole. There are lots of exciting events planned for the next three months at Vinton, so read on or click on our school website to join in.

*Sunrise, Sunset* - as the days grow longer, parents begin to think about summer vacations. Thus, they ask, "how many snow days have we had?" The short answer is that the calendar has been reconfigured by the Board of Education due to seven snow days. The last day of school is an early closing day (12:45) on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*We Have a Fabulous PTA* - so please support their efforts by attending the No TV Week activities April 11 - 14. There will be bingo, crafts, a read-a-long, kickball and a gym full of exercise. Also, don't miss the Book Fair ... it's always worth the trip.

*School Building Committee* - at the

March 14 meeting, the Mansfield Town Council decided not to send the proposed "Two New Elementary Schools" building project to the voters at this time. The Town Council and Mansfield Board of Education will hold a workshop session to discuss future plans. All of the School Building Committee information may be found through a link on the Vinton School homepage.

*Grade Three Garden Club* - is green and growing! Mrs. Welch along with many eager third graders have a project underway to grow flowers and produce in the Vinton greenhouse with the hopes of donating some fresh vegetables to local charities. We often can use help with our chores in the greenhouse and school gardens. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

I sincerely hope that April is off to a good start for you and your family. As always, please call or email if I can assist with anything. Bets wishes for a sunny spring.

## PTA NO TV WEEK April 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>!

Join us as we celebrate **No TV Week!** We are offering a variety of fun family activities each evening from 6:30pm to 7:30pm during the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - **Bingo Night**  
Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - **Craft Night**  
Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> - **Read-a-Long and Kickball** (weather permitting)

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> **Sweating with Senora** (health dance class)

No TV Week is in conjunction with our **Spring Book Fair**. The Book Fair will be open before and after school Monday through Thursday (8:30am - 9:15am and 3:30pm to 4:00pm). It will also be open Friday morning from 8:30am to 9:15am.

**See you  
at the  
Book Fair!**



## Nutrition Mileage Club for the Month of March



*Jordan and Margo point to their classrooms' progress on the track while Rosie, Julianna, Sara and Mrs. Eaton look on.*



*Healthy snackers James, Will, Cierra, Julia, Haley, and Alex. Each week their classrooms' total miles were tallied and a grand total was posted for the month. Read the article above to find out which class collected the most nutrition miles!*

March is Nutrition Month, and to celebrate we adopted our own version of "Mileage Club" by creating the Nutrition Mileage Club for each classroom. As you can see in the photos, each class was represented on the big bulletin board with a fruit or vegetable character.

Students earned miles by eating fruits and vegetables for the morning snack. Why fruits and vegetables? Because research shows school age children do not eat enough of these foods. So, for every 10 healthy snacks, the class earned a mile. We tracked

the nutrition miles each week and watched as the classes raced across the track on the bulletin board. It was great to have so many students participate. In fact, Mrs. Phelps class is going to continue with fruit/veggie snacks for the rest of the year. Great idea!

Here are the grand totals by grade level: Kindergarten achieved a total of 53.1 miles while Grade One had an amazing 62.9 nutrition miles! **Wow!** And with only two classes for Grade Two, they still were able to go 30 miles! Grade Three logged in 46.5 miles and Grade Four came in just over 42 miles. With spring arriving, get ready for Mileage Club during recess! More info about Mileage Club on page 4!



*Nurse Eaton with Ben, Ava and Bailey*

## Trestle Tree's a Hit Once Again in P.E. Classes!

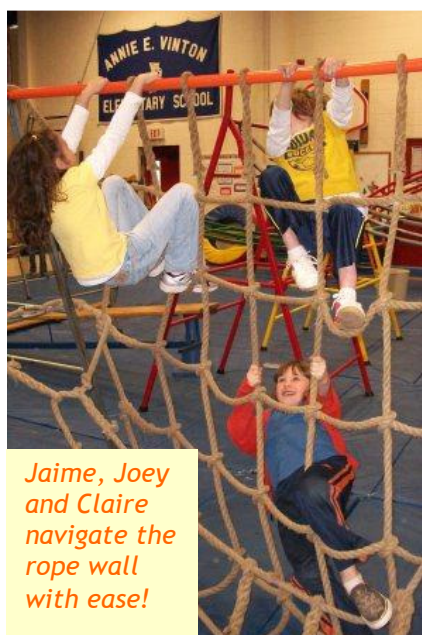
Trestle Tree ... what is it? Well, it is a variety of equipment that the three elementary schools share throughout the school year. For the past couple of months, Vinton students have enjoyed the different apparatus, like the rope climb, balance beam, etc. We know that working with this equipment helps develop fine and gross motor skills but the children know the most important thing about trestle tree - it's fun!!



*Matthew's gotten into the swing of things!*



*Michael holds the hoop while Alex leaps through it!*



*Jaime, Joey and Claire navigate the rope wall with ease!*



*Sophie skillfully climbs the ladder!*



## Kindergarten Weather Watchers

Ms. Rudge

Ms. Rudge's buddies investigated the popular expression "March comes in like a lion but goes out like a lamb." Well, does it?

The first week was mild as a lamb, but the second week scored 4 lions with wild weather! During the third week, there was one big growling lion and the last week offered nice, gentle weather. So, for the month, we had 23 lamb days and 8 lion days.

Our class has been tracking the weather

conditions throughout the school year. Did you know that in spite of the severe storms, it was mostly sunny for the months of December through March? It might not have felt that way, but it's true!

For the month of April, we will observe and record whether or not another familiar expression holds true: "April showers bring May flowers." Let's hope that we will enjoy many beautiful flowers in our kindergarten garden this Spring!



*Do April showers really bring May flowers?*

## What a Crazy Winter ... an Icicle Going Sideways?

Spring is finally here and we're glad the warm, sunny days have arrived (almost)! With the second highest amount of snowfall this winter, we had a record 7 days of school cancellations! Even the icicles were unusual by growing sideways on the school building near the gym. We asked several students if they could figure out why the icicle developed this way. Here are some of their responses:

Zachary in Preschool thinks that "maybe the wind went like woop!" while Savana thought it was because "the snow went sideways."

Oscar in grade four thinks "the wind blows the water when it is starting to freeze" while Brian believes "someone threw something at it." Lauren, Julia M., Katie K. and Julia V. all thought the wind blowing against the water as it froze caused this phenomenon.



Our first grade weather sleuth Harrison speculated that the wind was going sideways so the icicles formed that way. It seems most of our students think the wind caused this peculiarity. Third graders Julianna and Renee agreed; Renee said it must have been very windy to cause this effect.

Thanks to all of our students who offered answers to this puzzling question! It's not every day that you see an icicle going sideways!

## Colt Rhyme Festival Performers at Celebrate Vinton

Vinton students who participated at this year's annual Colt Rhyme Festival included (from grade 3) Alex H., Boris, Ali R. and (from grade 4) Avery, Amelia, Katie M. and Neha. Alex recited a Chinese poem and Neha offered a poem in Urdu. All of the students adorned vibrant, colorful costumes while performing songs. It was a memorable performance!



*(pictured right) Vinton students enjoy an encore performance at our recent Celebrate Vinton assembly by the Colt Rhyme Festival performers.*

## The Cat in the Hat is on the Loose at Vinton!



*Here the Cat in the Hat and some Vinton friends are playing the piano in the music room! They certainly had a great time!*

During the stuffed animal friends' sleepover in the library, the Cat in the Hat led our furry friends all throughout the school ... *one friend, two friends, sneaking down the hall, three friends, four friends, having a ball!*

To see the video of all their nighttime activities, go to the Vinton Elementary School Library website. You can get there from the school's homepage: select the For Students tab, scroll down to School Library catalog. That will link you to the town's library page where you will select the Vinton Elementary School Library link. Next screen, under Programs and Events, click on the link stuffed animals to play the video. It looks like they had a great time!

*(right picture) Brendan, Nicholas, Amy, Niko, Jerome and Leon say hello to the Grinch as they get off the bus at school!*



*Preschoolers are greeted at school by The Grinch to help celebrate Dr. Seuss and Read Across America*



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## Beanie Babies for Japanese Quake/Tsunami Victims

The impact of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan last month has been felt around the world.

Grade four students began discussing the tragedy and ways that they could help reach out to the children in Japan whose lives have been forever changed by these events. As a result, they have

run a Beanie Baby/small stuffed animal drive. Students made posters to hang



throughout the school and are collecting these toys through Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes are in front of the office. Students have collected over 200

toys to date. Thank you for your generosity!

## Mileage Club Returns for Spring!

The long winter is over and the fields are finally ready for us to resume Mileage Club during recess! For grades 1 and 2, mileage club will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Grades 3 and 4 have a slightly different schedule for the spring as they will participate on Thursdays and Fridays.

We could really use some extra parent helpers during grade 3 & 4 recess (12:45 - 1:15pm). If any parents wish to help out with Mileage Club, you may contact Señora Zugarazo at [jennifer.zugarazo@mansfieldct.org](mailto:jennifer.zugarazo@mansfieldct.org). Students' total miles are 2043.3 placing them in Emery, Utah! We're getting closer to our goal!

**We're on the Web!**

[mansfieldct.org/schools/vinton](http://mansfieldct.org/schools/vinton)